rance of the *Coſtæ* and *Sternon*, that one might very eaſily have taken out either Heart or Lungs, without ſo much as touching their Encloſure. Whether this might not be occaſion'd from the rarify'd *Effluvia* of the Waters, pent up within the Breaſt, or rather a neceſſary Conſequence of the Diaphragm's being ſo exceſſively preſſed upwards, I leave to a more Critical Cenſure; neither ſhall I take upon me to determine whether the contained Liquor happened from any Rupture in the Lacteal or Lymphatick Veſſels, according to Dr. *Willis*, or (as more probable to me) if it were not pure *Serum* (the Blood being diſſolved in its conſtituent parts) breaking forth of the little mouths of the *Cæliac* and other Arteries.

There were preſent at this Diſſection, Mr. *James Waſſe*, Sen. & Jun. *Daniel Turner*, Chyrurgeons.

IV. *Obſervatio Caſus non vulgaris De Hydrope intra Uteri Tunicas contento.*

E. R. a Perſon Aged 44, and upwards; ſometime after ſhe was married, had conceived (as ſhe thought) by ſome ſuppoſed Symptoms of Pregnancy, and in order to her Delivery, at the expiration of the time of her Account, her Midwife was conſulted. (Her fancy'd) Pains came on, and ſhe thought her ſelf very near her Labour. Her Belly was grown very big, and had gradually increaſed from the time of her (imagined) Conception; but alas, ſhe found her ſelf deceived in her Expectation, and her Preparations for this time all in vain. Her illneſs ſhortly after wore off, without leaving any Prognoſtick of an approaching Birth.

Thus

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Thus ſhe continued, growing bigger and more indiſpoſed, till twice the time of her Reckoning was compleated.

Thoſe whom ſhe conſulted for help, knew not by what means to relieve her, as not knowing what her Diſtemper was. Some thought ſhe had a Tympany, ſome that ſhe was Aſcitical, and others that ſhe carried a dead Child in her Womb.

She had taken much Phyſick, but without relief, and at length made her Application to Dr. *G*— who, after Enquiry into the Circumſtances, put her in great hopes by his Perſwaſions, that ſhe might be with Child, and by the taking ſome few of his Preſcriptions, in all probability ſhe was to be delivered very ſpeedily of a Humane *Fœtus*, either alive or dead. Theſe Remedies were taken as ineffectually as many others; ſo that now ſhe began to deſpair of Recovery, yet lived many Months afterwards: And laſt of all, at three Years end (from the time ſhe thought her ſelf Pregnant) ſhe refer'd her ſelf to one Dr. *N*— a Profeſſor of Phyſick as well as Midwifery. She was now again under a Courſe of Phyſick, and had taken many powerful Hyſterick, and other Uterine Remedies.

It was now without much Queſtion concluded that ſhe labour'd of a *Mola*, or that a falſe Conception was engendred by one of Nature's Aberrations inſtead of a true one. The Cauſe being now (as was thought) found out, there remained nothing but to endeavour its expulſion: This was attempted with no better Succeſs than formerly; ſo that after all ſhe removed into the Air, where ſhe had not continued long, before ſhe languiſhed and dyed.

There remained nothing but the opening of the Body, which was concluded on, in order to detect this ſo occult and contumacious a Diſtemper. We who were to make the Inſpection, met with her Phyſician, and (the

Corps being laid as advantagiouſly as might be) we began our Inciſion from the *Umbilicus* tranſvers the *Abdomen*, to the *Ilia*: And from the ſame centre another Inciſion direct to the *Os Pubis*. Here was now an expectation on all hands of ſomething rare and Monſtrous, when on a ſudden one of the Diſſecters (little thinking what was ſo near) in cutting through the *Peritonæum*, accidentally thruſt his Knife too far, and immediately there aroſe a Spring, as it were, of a limpid *Serum* or *Lympha*, as clear as Water from a Fountain, riſing up a very conſiderable height, and with great impetuoſity.

This put an end as well to Conjecture as Diſpute, we now fully concluding the Diſtemper to be an *Hydrops Uteri*, or a Dropſie contain'd within the Cavity of the Womb. Having emptied the containing part of its Water, which in quantity did ſomewhat exceed two Gallons or eight Quarts; we proceeded to ſatisfie our ſelves wherein this Deluge had been contained, we found its encloſure was a thin tranſparent Membrane; and yet notwithſtanding its extraordinary Dilation, I could not perſwade my ſelf that it was the entire Body of the *Uterus* it ſelf: Upon a more ſtrict ſearch, when I turned this Membrane to the right ſide, I perceived underneath this outward Tunic, or (as I thought) adhering to it, a more carnous Subſtance. To clear this ſuſpicion the *Os Pubis* was divided, which finding very difficult to be performed with a Knife, I finiſh'd with a ſmall Saw.

I cannot chooſe but take notice in this place, of ſome People's over-credulity, and to wonder that we ſhould be ſo eaſily perſwaded to ſet the Light of our Underſtanding in the dark Lanthorn of Authority, when we take for granted, that theſe Bones, *viz.* the Share or Pubes, do ſeparate or part aſunder of their own accord in time of Travel, in order to facilitate the Birth of the *Fœtus*.

The

The *Pubes* being divided, we paſſed in a Probe through the *Pudenda*, into the *Vagina Uteri*, and having traced it as far as it went, by looking into the *Pelvis*, and ſearching for that Carnous Subſtance I have already ſpoken of, we found it to be nothing leſs than the *Uterus* it ſelf, when cutting into its Body, we perceived the end of the Probe already entred in the *Cervix* or Neck thereof. So that (what ſeemed to us ſtrange) we were at length aſcertain'd of the Truth, and convinced that the aforeſaid Water was contained in the external Tunic of the Womb, whoſe great weight had thruſt the Body thereof perfectly on one ſide, and hindred an admiſſion of ſearch from the *Vagina*, towards the *Fundus Uteri*, the *Cervix* thereof being kept cloſe as in a true Conception.

One of the great Indications of this Woman's Pregnancy, was a Flux of a whitiſh or palliid Humour to her Breaſts, which ſhe could ſqueeze out at pleaſure, and thought it to be no other than Milk generated therein in order to the Nutrition and Conſervation of a future Birth.

She had likewiſe labour'd the greateſt part of the time under a Suppreſſion of the *Menſes*, whoſe reflux to the Breaſts, when an alteration had been induced by its Glandules, might as I conjecture (iſſuing from the *Papillæ* under a ſubalbid form) be taken for Milk, and give grounds of a ſuſpicion that ſhe had conceived. But I ſhall leave the Ætyology of the aforeſaid *Phænomena* to the more Curious Indagator of Anatomick Myſteries.

There was preſent at this Diſſection, Dr. *N*---, Mr. *Thomas*, *John*, *Daniel Turner*, *Lichfeild*, Chyrurgeons.